

enactment of my legislation. While I realize that there are some who wish to concentrate solely on the provisions of the so-called "contract with America" in the first 3½ months of the new session, I would urge all of my colleagues to join with me in moving this to a high priority status so that spring training and the regulator season are not lost to the American people.

We have the opportunity and ability to rescue the national pastime from its current dispiriting condition. Let's not allow this opportunity to pass by or be deferred.

I urge all colleagues to join in the effort.

CREDIT BUREAU REPORTING OF COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as this historic 104th Congress convenes, I am reintroducing the Child Support Credit Bureau Reporting Act of 1995, to require all States to participate in a simplified, nationally uniform child-support credit-bureau reporting system.

I first introduced this bill in 1994. It is aimed at combatting the woefully low rate of child support payments in the United States, without creating a new Federal Government program to do it. Credit bureaus and, through them, individual lenders will know on a monthly basis whether or not parents are fulfilling this most basic obligation. With negligible Federal costs, this bill will begin to get the private sector involved in addressing those adults who don't pay their court-ordered child support.

Children are created by two people, and both of them must accept personal and financial responsibility for raising their children. In broken, or never-formed families, financial responsibility is often defined by court-ordered child support payments. Unfortunately, too many noncustodial parents fail to comply with the court orders.

A year ago, I received a letter from a constituent of mine in Warren, MI. This mother of two ran away from her husband, and moved into a shelter for abused women. She writes:

I have been working as a secretary for almost eight years now, and it still seems that there is never enough money. My ex-husband doesn't even pay the ordered \$55 per week, an amount so small it won't even buy them both new shoes or new coats. It won't pay for Little League registration * * * and if I saved every penny, it wouldn't put them half way through college. Why does he do this? Because he feels he can get away with it and I say he's right.

Unfortunately, she's not alone. The Office of Child Support Enforcement in the Department of Health and Human Services reports that of \$35 billion of cumulative court-ordered child support owed through 1992, \$27 billion remains uncollected. In 1992, nearly six million absentee parents made no child support payments at all.

This is simply wrong and my child support credit bureau reporting bill will help to change this.

Very simply, State agencies responsible for child support enforcement will report the status of all child support accounts to the Nation's

three major credit bureaus—TRW, Equifax, and Trans-Union. With this information appearing on credit reports, individual lenders will know on a monthly basis whether parents owe court-ordered child support and whether they are fulfilling this most basic obligation. After all, is a parent's obligation to pay court-ordered child support any less important than that parent's obligation to make a car payment or pay their credit card bills?

Last year, I asked the GAO to survey 16 States, credit bureaus, and some lenders regarding this proposal. I introduced my bill after receiving the favorable GAO report, entitled "Child Support Enforcement—Credit Bureau Reporting Shows Promise," on June 3, 1994. Generally, the GAO found that my proposal can increase child support collections, that it is administratively feasible, and, most importantly, it can be implemented with little cost to either State or Federal governments. In short, over time, my bill will help save money and increase court-ordered child support collections.

Mr. Speaker, we have done nearly all we can in the way of Federal statute; we already mandate tax-refund intercepts, the withholding of court-ordered support from wages, liens on property, and so on. But government cannot do this alone. The private sector must also reinforce the principle of parental responsibility. My bill will provide private-sector banks, credit card agencies, merchants, and businesses the information they should weigh when making loan decisions. Private sector lenders should attach at least as much importance to a parent's track record for paying court-ordered child support as they do to credit card balances and loan payments. And failure to pay court-ordered child support should carry grave consequences.

Mr. Speaker, if we support family values, then surely this is a sensible and necessary step. Those in the private sector—banks, credit card agencies, and businesses—should put court-ordered child support on the scale when weighing the decision to make a loan. We must send the message that both parents are responsible for supporting their children and that child support is a debt parents cannot afford to ignore.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of the bill be inserted in the RECORD at this point.

ALAN EMORY ASSUMES GRIDIRON PRESIDENCY

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of a distinguished journalist who has been covering Washington since the days of President Truman. This week, as we seek a new direction for Congress and the country, so too will a new voice guide the well known Gridiron Club. Alan S. Emory, Washington correspondent for the Watertown (New York) Daily Times, assumed the presidency of the Club January 1. He has been that newspaper's Washington correspondent since 1951.

Gridiron is an organization of 60 journalists covering the Nation's Capital. They are well recognized for their annual gala dinner and

musical spoof of politics, over which Mr. Emory will preside on March 25.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Emory has crossed many notable milestones in his career—recipient of the Thomas L. Stokes prize for conservation reporting, election to the Society of Professional Journalists, President of its Washington Professional Chapter and member of the Chapter's Hall of Fame—but he is probably most gratified at his elevation to the presidency of Gridiron. He has twice been music chairman of their spring show, a producer ten times and always one of the Club's most prolific writer of lyrics. As a member since 1976 and most recently its vice president, he will be a most capable leader.

Covering Washington politics for more than four decades, Mr. Emory is known as a journalist with the highest of standards. He can be tough on newsmakers but is as fair as they come. What public official could ask for more? And who better to be chief lampooner at the Gridiron?

Mr. Speaker, I join his fourth estate colleagues, his family, particularly his beloved wife, Nancy, and his Capitol Hill friends in congratulating Mr. Emory on his assumption of the Gridiron Club presidency and look forward to his continuing successes through the new year.

CENTRALIZED AUTOMOBILE EMISSIONS INSPECTION

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I introduce today legislation to bring a commonsense approach to implementation of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. My legislation is designed to accomplish three goals: First, to delay for 2 years the implementation of the enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program; second, to require the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to reissue regulations for this program; and third, to provide for the redesignation of marginal and moderate ozone nonattainment areas.

This legislation is in response to a consistent trend by the EPA of regulating first and asking questions later. As far back as April 2, 1993, I contracted EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner with regard to a requirement that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania implement a centralized vehicle inspection program. While I have many concerns with the EPA's Centralized Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program as a means of actually improving air quality, my main concern is over the Agency's Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Report which found 41 of the 98 previously designated nonattainment regions registering ozone attainment for the years 1991 through 1993. Additionally, according to available ozone air studies these regions will again reach attainment in 1994. Had it not been for the inclusion of 1988, a climatological anomaly, in the EPA's 3-year average of ozone nonattainment, regions such as Harrisburg and Lancaster, PA, would never have been caught in this bureaucratic web of regulations. In my opinion, the EPA is looking for a problem to regulate which does not exist.